GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
INDO-IRAQ TALKS
ARUN KUMAR

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation visited Iraq in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details of talks held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

a) Yes, Sir. A special goodwill delegation led by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairperson, Rajya Sabha visited Iraq from August 31 to September 2, 2001.

b) Dr. Najma Heptulla met President Saddam Hussein and delivered to him written message of our Prime Minister.The delegation also met Vice-President Taha Yasin Ramadan, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Speaker Sadoun Hammadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Trade, Industry and Minerals and Transport and Communications and had fruitful discussions.

c) The meetings strengthened political communications and opened new vistas for expansion of economic relations between India and Iraq.